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(54) PROCEDE D'UTILISATION DE CHAMPS DE DONNEES VARIABLES AVEC LANGAGE DE DESCRIPTION DE PAGE

(54) METHOD OF UTILIZING VARIABLE DATA FIELDS WITH A PAGE DESCRIPTION LANGUAGE



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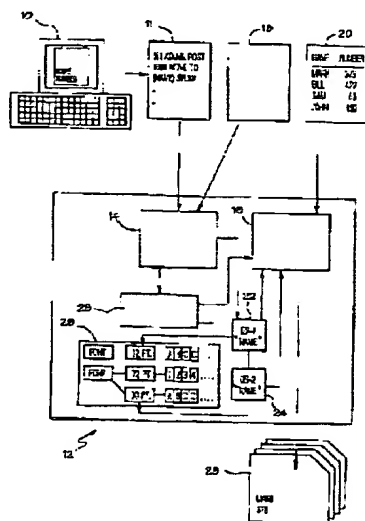
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(54) Title: METHOD OF UTILIZING VARIABLE DATA FIELDS WITH A PAGE DESCRIPTION LANGUAGE



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A method for printing variable data (figure 2) with a page description language, which enables the graphics states for a page of variable data to be defined and stored (figure 1, item 26); and which enables the stored graphics states to be associated with items of variable data from a database, so that once defined, the graphics states can be used to print multiple pages of variable data. The method of the present invention is implemented by means of a control task, which executes in a printer in conjunction with a page description program, to identify variable data areas in the program (figure 1, item 20), and store the graphics states for the variable data areas as they are defined by the program. After the program has terminated, a merge task associates items of variable data from a data file with the graphics states, generates a bit map for each variable data area, merges the bit maps with the page template (figure 1, item 16), and outputs the page from the printer. Accordingly, in the method of the present invention, bit maps for multiple pages of variable data are generated from a single page description program (figure 1, item 29).

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